

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 and 9-12 are presently active in this application; Claims 1, 9 and 12 having been amended and Claim 8 canceled by the present Amendment., Claims 13-18 having been previously withdrawn from consideration as directed to a non-elected invention.

In the outstanding Office Action Claims 1-2, 4-7 and 9-12 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jung et al (US 6,388,281) in view of Kikuchi et al (US 6,682,944); and Claims 3 and 8 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but otherwise allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that Claims 3 and 8 include allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, and to expedite issuance of a patent from the present application, Claims 1, 9 and 12 have been amended to include the subject matter of Claim 8 and Claim 8 has been canceled.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment adding the allowable subject matter of Claim 8 to each pending independent claim, i.e., independent Claim 1, 9 and 12, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870